

The Heart of the Christmas Child

By HELEN IRWIN

THE Great Man was in a frightful humor.

The clerks tiptoed in and out of the private office, and Miss Elgin gathered up her pencils and erasers and fled. James had capped the climax of a series of disasters by telephoning that the machine was out of commission. The Great Man must take the trolley home. The trolley home on a night like this, when an even standing room would be at a premium.

He hanged up the receiver, and belovied at the office boy to get Miss Elgin. When she stood meekly before him he issued his orders abruptly.

"Write up those letters," he said, "file those things, add up those reports; straighten out here. There are some telephone calls that I haven't time for—then you can look up. I must be off, that infernal trolley will make me late as it is."

Then he struggled into his fur coat and started, lest the souldie be a trifle overdone, and Miss Elgin dropped her tired hands in despair at the burden he had slid on to her shoulders. It meant work for her till eight or nine, and this was Christmas eve.

At the corner where he took up his stand for a car a newsboy accosted him.

"Paper, mister?"

"No," he said shortly.

The little fellow persisted.

"Paper, mister?"

The Great Man looked down with a sharp retort on his lips, and the face of the child arrested his attention, it was so white and pinched; and the eyes staring out of it so big and earnest.

He took out a quarter, and because a car was coming, waved aside the change. In spite of his hurry, the boy's thanks struck strangely on his ear.

"You've got the heart of the Christmas Child all right, mister."

The heart of the Christmas Child, for a measly quarter, one of many thousands he could spare! The bitter irony of it brought a smile to his lips; a smile that twisted his face into a strange shape.

Alice met him at the door, and removed his coat. Dinner was served.

and he sat down to it alone. His wife was dead, and since Alice ran away two years ago with a poor clerk and he had pronounced the sentence of exile upon her, he had lived alone with his servants.

They ministered to his comfort skillfully now as ever, but somehow things were not right. He thought of a poor family group in the trolley, and pictured their Christmas evening meal; imagined what joy the smallest thing on his table would give them—

He drew his eyes impatiently away; and then he thought of the clerks' Christmas gifts, cut right in two. He pictured the faces of the neediest ones, when they opened the flaps of the tiny envelopes he had guiltily sealed. Around and around the room seemed to echo:

"You've got the heart of the Christmas Child all right, mister," and he laughed aloud.

He pushed back his chair impatiently and went into the library.

"Great Scott! what is the matter with me?" he said; "my liver must be out of order."

He took up a cigar and a magazine, but he could not read. From across the shadows of the library his daughter's eyes sought him, staring from out the canvas. She was the only one he had left, and she was cast rigorously aside. The face of the Great Man worked suddenly in pain, and his head fell forward on his arms.

And then—soft arms were about his neck, and lips pressed to his cheek.

"Father," said a voice, "look up and say I may come. Alec let me in; I've been waiting in the hall—"

She broke off. The sound of music came faintly into the room. With arms about him, she drew him to the window and flung up the sash.

"The Little Orphans' Christmas Carol," she whispered, and the room was filled with melody.

Tears streamed down the Great Man's cheeks; he drew her head to his shoulder.

"Alice," he whispered brokenly, "you must come and make me a better man."

And suddenly about them hovered the spirit of that great heart of the Christmas Child.

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BROWNINGTON CENTER

Mrs. Augusta Ball has been on the sick list the past week.

B. J. Mack has moved his family back to Brownington village.

The Red Cross will meet with Mrs. Lathe Dec. 11. Be sure and be there.

Fred Provost and Charlie Lafave were at home to spend Sunday with their parents.

E. E. Dutton is staying with his brother, Will, who is in very poor health at present.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lund of Orleans have come to spend the winter with their son, L. N. Lund.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Gray were in Charleston Saturday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Gray's aunt.

Miss Marion Cartwright went to Abington, P. Q., to spend the Thanksgiving recess with her parents.

There will be a demonstration for making cottage cheese Dec. 12, at 2:30 p. m. at the town hall. All ladies are urged to be present.

Charles Lathe and family spent Thanksgiving with their son, Fred, in Orleans, and Mr. and Mrs. Truman Aikin were at Mrs. Mae Richardson's in Orleans for the day.

Harold Whitcomb and family of Lyndonville were at T. G. Crandall's, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Clough were at P. G. Stone's and F. J. Seavey and family were at J. B. Flint's for Thanksgiving dinner.

EVANSVILLE

The Red Cross will meet with Mrs. George Hunt Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. All ladies interested are invited.

MORGAN CENTER

Ernest DeLouria, who has been employed in the Grand Trunk freight house in Berlin, N. H., as checker, has finished his work there and begun work for the Berlin Mills company in the Cascade Paper mill in Gorham, N. H.

Replacing Dislocated Jaws.

Dislocation of the jaw, sometimes caused by laughing or yawning, may be replaced by gripping the jaw firmly with the thumbs inside the patient's mouth and the fingers closed over the outside, pressing downward and then backward. When the jaw slips back into place look out for your thumbs, for it will snap like the jaw of a turtle. It is best to wrap the thumbs with cloth for protection.

Aim to Be Sincere.

To be sincere should be the aim of poet, painter, author, teacher, minister, the daily workman or the draft horse or milch cow of the family. One will not, if sincere, commercialize his gifts or his culture; he will not pander to the lower appetites of the masses or the whims of the rich. For one should be sincere in his entire being, in his faith and in his doubts, if he has them, in his optimism and in his pessimism.—Exchange.

Skates on the Flour Barrel.

If your flour barrel is hard to get at nail a discarded roller skate on each side of the bottom of the barrel. With the aid of these and a handle or knob on the front of the barrel you will have no further difficulty.

At the Gift Shop

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER LOT OF THOSE HEMSTITCH-ESCALLOP PILLOW CASES ALL READY FOR CROCHET

They are extra good quality of tubing. Although they cost me more I will sell them at same price of last lot—75c a pair—80c by mail

Any Housekeeper would like these for a Christmas gift

Miss Colburne

Barton, - - - Vermont

UP THE MISSISQUOI

LOWELL

Truman Lockwood, 65, a farmer living two miles from this village on the Burlington road, committed suicide about 11 o'clock Friday by hanging himself on an overlay in his cow-barn. Despondency over failing sight and business troubles are probable causes for his act. He leaves his wife, one son, two daughters and an aged mother.

TROY

Wallace Keirn has enlisted for four years in the navy and left for training Monday.

Mrs. F. J. Kinney and children of Orleans spent Thanksgiving with her parents here, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Brown.

NORTH TROY

Miss Alice Rogers spent the weekend in Hardwick at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Drew.

Attorney W. W. Reiden and family of Barton spent Thanksgiving day with Mr. Reiden's parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Dana entertained Mr. Dana's mother, Mrs. A. Dana, of Orleans for Thanksgiving.

Albert M. Macomber, who went from here to Camp Devens, Ayer,

BROWNINGTON

Mrs. G. D. Burroughs is sick again.

W. G. Dutton is in very poor health.

Mrs. Grace Hagar and daughter were in town last week.

Miss Grace Emerson has returned to her home in Weathersfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Dutton spent Thanksgiving with her parents in Weathersfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Wiggins have closed their house here and have gone to Orleans to live this winter while Mr. Wiggins works in the mill.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Flint had as guests for Thanksgiving their daughters and families, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Buswell and children of Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seavey and children of Brownington Center and Madam Seavey of Brownington Center.

The Grange held its regular meeting Nov. 27 and elected the following officers: Master, A. W. Davies; overseer, Mrs. O. A. Grow; lecturer, William Davies; steward, Leslie Dutton; assistant steward, Leon Marsh; chaplain, O. A. Grow; treasurer, G. A. Going; secretary, Mrs. E. S. Kelley; gate keeper, Albert Caron; Ceres, Mrs. A. W. Davies; Pomona, Celeste Caron; Flora, Helen Dutton; lady assistant, Mrs. Leon Marsh.

MISS ALSEY YOUNG.

Alsey Merle Young was born Aug. 29, 1895, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Young. Sept. 1908, she entered O. H. S. and graduated in 1912. During the following year she taught a rural school in Kentucky. Sept. 1913 she entered U. V. M. at Burlington, graduating in June, 1917, receiving the degree of Ph. D. Last September she accepted a position in the Swanton high school. She was a member of the Congregational church and C. E. society of this town and ever ready to help in every way possible. She loved her home and all its surroundings and had a very cheerful, persevering disposition. She died in Swanton, Nov. 27, after a short illness from pneumonia. Swanton school and school officers attended the funeral in a body and sent flowers for her burial. The body was brought to her home here the following day and funeral services were held at the church Nov. 30, Rev. R. A. Hamilton officiating. The flowers sent by neighbors and friends were most beautiful. Friends from Newmarket, Barton, Burlington and Lyndonville were in town to attend the funeral. Much sympathy is felt for the parents and sister in this great sorrow.

The following tribute is taken from the Courier, published in Swanton, where Miss Young taught:

Miss Alsey Merle Young, head of the Swanton high school commercial department, died Tuesday, Nov. 27, at pneumonia at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Parker, after an illness of about two weeks. Miss Young was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Young of Brownington.

Miss Young was born in Brownington, Aug. 29, 1895. After attending the common schools of her native town, she entered the Orleans high school from which she graduated with high honors at the age of 16. After teaching a year, she entered the University of Vermont, from which she graduated in the class of 1916, being on the honor roll, and having the degree of Ph. D. conferred upon her. At the same time Miss Young was taking the Latin scientific course at the university, she took a commercial course at the Evans business college, Burlington, from which she graduated.

At the beginning of the present term of the Swanton high school, Miss Young was engaged as head of the commercial department, a position which she very creditably filled until forced to leave by illness. In the short time which Miss Young was in Swanton, she made a host of friends, who will mourn her loss.

Miss Young was a guardian of the Camp Fire Girls and active in the social work of the school and community. She was a member of the Congregational church and a devoted worker in her home town. Besides her parents, Miss Young is survived by a sister, Marjorie, a student at U. V. M.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. F. Wilson Day from the home of C. J. Parker Tuesday afternoon at 3:30. The teachers of the public schools and high school students attended in a body. The remains were taken Wednesday morning to Brownington, where services will be held from the home of her parents Friday afternoon.

Mass., Nov. 22, has been sent to Texas with other men from the camp. So far as known Mr. Macomber is the only man from the county to go from among those who were recently called.

WESTFIELD

Albert Eastman was home from Barton for the week-end.

Dayton O. Harding is working in the woods for the Blair Veneer company.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Shattuck of Eden were at W. D. Bell's Thanksgiving day.

Milton Bell was home from St. Johnsbury to spend Thanksgiving with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Bell.

Lee Miller came home last week from the agricultural institute at Lyndon. He was accompanied by a friend, Mr. Clark.

Pliny Wright of Minnesota arrived Thursday morning and is spending a few days with his father, O. P. Wright. His last visit here was 14 years ago.

News was received recently of the sudden death of George Hoyt of Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. Hoyt, the son of N. C. Hoyt, lived here for many years and for some time was engaged in the mercantile business.

THE GREENSBOROS

GREENSBORO

W. S. Ingalls was in Danville over Sunday.

Miss Grace Speirs is working at George Porter's.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goodrich are visiting in Concord, N. H.

Everett Perrin has been ill the past week with a bad throat trouble.

O. O. Gregory visited over Thanksgiving at his old home in Lowell.

Bert Cummings was notified to appear at Camp Devens early last week for service.

William Barrington is home from Bakersfield academy for the Thanksgiving vacation.

Misses Mary Wylie and Ruth Cuthbertson spent Thanksgiving with friends in Glover.

The evening meetings of both the churches were omitted Sunday evening because of the severity of the weather.

Alvin Shute, who has worked for W. S. Ingalls for the past eight years has hired out to George Spiers for a year beginning Monday.

The schools of the village did not open until Tuesday morning because of the inability of the teachers to reach this town until Monday.

Mrs. C. H. Richards, proprietor of the Lake View House, who is spending the winter in Westley, R. I., is reported very sick with diphtheria.

Miss Marion Jameson, domestic science teacher in the junior high school, spent the Thanksgiving vacation at her home in Colebrook, N. H.

The Caspian Lake Grange will hold their regular meeting Wednesday evening of this week. Officers will be elected for the coming year and refreshments will be served.

Dr. and Mrs. Albert Kinney and two children, who have been staying at Dr. F. C. Kinney's the past few days, left for their new home in Blue-Hill, Me., the first of this week.

Mrs. J. D. Willey fell while going to her cellar Thursday morning and was unfortunate enough to break her leg. She is doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Charles Wright, a former resident of this town, but for many years a resident of Worcester, Mass., died about two weeks ago. He has a brother, George Wright, living in this town.

P. H. Corrigan, principal of the junior high school, was in St. Johnsbury and other places over Thanksgiving vacation. Miss Avis Keir, assistant principal, spent the Thanksgiving vacation at her home in Craftsbury.

C. B. Terrill, who has a camp on the south end of Caspian lake, died the first of the week in Burlington. He made his home during the winter in Morrisville but is well known here where he had made his summer home for the past 19 years.

ALL THE ALBANYS

ALBANY

Mrs. Bernice Cutler has been quite ill for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sanders were in Orleans Thanksgiving day.

Ashley Clifford broke his leg recently while playing on the ice.

Mrs. F. J. Newton and two children visited in Orleans last week.

Barbara Fletcher and Ella Miles united with the M. E. church Sunday.

Mrs. Alice Fisher of Lyndonville visited at Mrs. T. J. Newton's last week.

Harry Martin was home from Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass., to spend Thanksgiving.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Currier have gone to Massachusetts where he has employment in a mill.

Mrs. Amanda Newton has closed her home here and gone to Lyndonville to spend the winter.

Miss Mary Frissell of Eden spent the Thanksgiving vacation with her friend, Mrs. W. A. Creig.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brown and Miss Mildred were at Conroy Brown's in North Troy for Thanksgiving.

Miss Sarah Robbins of Craftsbury had charge of the central telephone office during Mildred Brown's absence last week.

SOUTH ALBANY

The village school began Monday after a week's vacation.

Miss Minnie Seaver is the guest of Mrs. C. W. Urie this week.

Miss Alice Young spent Friday with her friend, Miss Edna Rowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cutler of Barton spent Friday at H. D. Rowell's.

The academy students were at their homes for the Thanksgiving vacation.

J. N. Urie, who has been suffering with blood poisoning in his hand, is some better.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Urie and family were at Alex Shields' for Thanksgiving.

John Miller of Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass., was at his home here for Thanksgiving day.

Mrs. Belle Rowell and Harvey spent Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Davison in Craftsbury.

Arthur Urie, who has been working for Arthur Dewing in Glover, has finished and is at home for the present.

Leslie Urie, who has been having a few days' vacation from his school duties in Lyndonville, returned Monday.

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